



## Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes: March 11, 2004

*Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.*

### **Administrative Business**

Chairperson Phil Worby (QC Labs) called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) commented that the New Jersey Administrative Code was available on the website but that it is an unofficial copy. Dave Speis's (Accutest) motion to approve the minutes was seconded and passed.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Laboratory Certification Program:** Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) reported that the FY2005 applications have been sent out. A printout of Part III was not included and must be accessed from the website or by calling OQA.

Phil Worby (QC labs) asked for clarification on the SHW certification noting that a new line item for Matrix was now included on the ACPL. It appears that accreditation may be given for either Non-Potable Water (N-PW), Solid and Chemical Materials (SCM) or both for the SHW Program. Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) confirmed that certification was given according to matrix type and to make sure that the laboratories carefully check their ACPL for accuracy.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that during the application renewal process there was no matrix request. Ms Werner stated that if you are certified in both N-PW and SCM you should perform the Proficiency Test analysis for the more difficult matrix. Fill out a discrepancy form if the information on your application is not correct. Any questions about the microbiology methods should be referred to Debra Waller (NJDEP-OQA).

**PT program:** Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that she has received the December WP study results. Any enforcement letters should be received within three months. Ms. Werner indicated that she had to call both APG and ERA to get a lot of the reports and she cautions that laboratories must confirm that their results on the vendor's website are received by the vendor to get credit for the PT submission. Ms Werner reports that the SHW study is shipping on April 26<sup>th</sup> from both vendors. She indicated that TCLP Metals are required with this study and will alternate with Sludge Metal studies in following SHW PT studies. Drinking Water study letters will be ready to go out in 2-3 weeks. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) reported that the PT Roundtable Provider meeting that was held on February 26, 2004, at the College of New Jersey went well and that the minutes would be available on the website in about two weeks

Phil Worby (QC labs) asked whether NYDOH was an accepted PT vendor. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated that Ken Jackson from NYDOH informed the meeting attendees that

NYDOH will not provide homogeneity / stability studies to New Jersey and on that basis NYDOH is not an accepted PT vendor by NJDEP-OQA.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that more of the PT Providers are willing to include the homogeneity and stability studies to NJDEP and Mr. Aiello indicated that NJDEP will maintain the position that they will not accept PT results of undocumented quality.

Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated that two letters concerning Transfer and Disposal Facilities, as well as TRIAD certification should be sent out within the month. He also indicated that Site Remediation will be e-mailing a similar letter to approximately four hundred contacts in addition to the New Jersey labs.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if TRIAD will follow state certified regulations and if there will be any changes in the certification process. Mr. Aiello stated that the TRIAD methods follow published SW-846 methods with a PBMS section and will be evaluated accordingly. Specifically, there must be an SOP in place for the actual method that will be employed in the field.

#### ***NELAC Update:***

Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated that there were two applications submitted for the PT Oversight Board (PTOB). One was A2LA and the other a New England firm that works in the ISO Program. He stated that NIST did not apply.

Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated that NELAC standards that were adopted in July 2002 will be effective as of July 2004. Mr. Aiello indicated that NJDEP is scheduled to be audited in April of this year.

Dave Speis (Accutest) inquired about the content of an audit under the new standards with the incorporation of ISO/IEC 17025.

Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) said to bring particular questions to the ELAC meetings.

Dave Speis (Accutest) stated that there was no voting policy in place at the January INELA meeting and that a program policy concerning voting privileges was created and could be approved in 4-6 weeks. Joe Aiello asked if comments would be accepted beyond the thirty-day limit. Mr. Speis stated that comments should be submitted to the standards development committee. The next INELA meeting is scheduled for August 2004.

***Bioassay:*** No report

***Communications:*** Tom Greci (ECM) reported on the NJWEA and NJDEP seminar to be held in Atlantic City on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>. There is an 8-hour OSHA Hazwoper refresher course, a NJ underground storage tank seminar and a regulatory update on NRD issues. Mr. Greci also indicated that he would like to get the ELAC Minutes into the Effluents publication, or at least make a note that the minutes may be found on the NJDEP-OQA Website.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if there would be a current posting of Laboratory Certifications on the Website. Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) replied it would be difficult to make real-time changes. Essentially the information would be out-of-date as soon as it went on the website.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) said that eventually individual laboratories will be able to check their PT status via the website.

**By-Laws:** No report

### **Old Business**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water/PWTA:** Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) announced that Diane Pupa (NJDEP-BSDW) was assuming Karen Fell's position. Rich Gunoskey was not able to attend the ELAC meeting.

The effective date for gross alpha testing for Central New Jersey counties is Monday March 15, 2004. A new excel spreadsheet can be found on the website. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) reported that Rich Gunoskey along with Don McClain from data management will perform random checks and evaluate data that is being submitted and are working on the generation of different report formats and data usage

Diane Pupa (NJDEP-BSDW) reported on the 6-month private well test report that is posted on the website. Ms. Pupa states that results did not show as much contamination as expected but there is concern over the volatile organic results in some private wells. There should be another report by the end of the year.

Harvey Klein (GSL) commented that the results are misleading in this report. He stated that with the unreported lead results and combined total coliform / fecal coliform failures the results would reflect a much higher failure rate. He also commented that 1/3-1/2 the GPS data is invalid.

Diane Pupa (NJDEP-BSDW) stated that the lead results were not used because the data was suspect due to possible sampling errors. There will be further investigation such as lead isotope studies to define the source of the lead contamination. Ms. Pupa did agree that approximately 1/3 of the GPS data was found to be incorrect and that the OQA is investigating.

**Site Remediation:** No report.

### **New Business**

**GPS:** Mark Ferko (OQA-NJDEP) reported that about 98% of the GPS units used are Trimble units. He is training the in-house auditors in the evaluation of their use. He stated that the auditors will be able to map the XY coordinates on IMAP to check the accuracy of the GPS data submitted. Phil Worby (QC Labs) on recommendation from Mr. Ferko, will try to get a

representative from the Waypoint Technology Group to discuss the proper use of GPS units for the April Meeting.

**Training:** Rachel Werner (NJDEP- OQA) informed the attendees that 3 new classes will be held in April in the public hearing room. Contact Stu Nagourney if you are interested in attending. The classes scheduled are Inorganic Methods of Analysis, Gas Chromatograph – Mass Spectrometry and Principles of Quality Assurance.

**DW Roundtable:** Linda Bonnette (NJDEP- BSDW) stated that the roundtable will be scheduled when the E2 software for electronic deliverables is ready. She thinks that laboratory attendance will be greatest at that point in time.

**ACIL:** Bob Wyeth (STL) made an informative presentation on the Environmental Laboratory Data Integrity Initiative after the end of the meeting. Further information can be obtained on the ACIL website at [www.acil.org](http://www.acil.org).

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 10:55AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM on April 08, 2004 – 4th. Floor Conference Room.

**NJDEP Notice:** The DEP has revised current building security procedures to reflect actions that must be taken by employees and visitors at all times, as determined by the Domestic Preparedness Task Force. The change below will be implemented immediately:  
All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.